

2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE as of 3/9/22

HAWAII STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 9

JUSTIN H. WOODSON

KAHULUI • PU'UNĒNĒ • OLD SAND HILLS • MAUI LANI



Aloha,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We are in the midst of the 2022 Legislative session and I would like to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to serve our valiant community as the State Representative of District 9. The COVID-19 pandemic has genuinely shown our community's perseverance and resilience, so it is a privilege to continue advocating for you and voicing your concerns at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

As of March 7, 2022, the Hawai'i State Capitol is open to the public. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office or reach out via telephone or email with any questions or concerns. My staff and I are always happy to assist!

Mahalo nui loa,

JUSTIN H. WOODSON

COVID-19 RESOURCES

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A program supporting low-income households in Maui County who have been financially impacted due to the pandemic. The program assists with past rent and utility bills dating back to March 13th, 2020, and current and future rent and utility bills of up to \$2,500 a month. For more information and how to apply, visit: <https://mauicounty.gov/MauiRentHelp>

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

A Maui County program funded by the American Rescue Plan and in partnership with Maui Federal Credit Unions to help the financial impact of struggling businesses due to the pandemic. The program offers a \$5,000 grant to qualified businesses. For more information, you may call the Kokua Maui County Grant hotline at (808) 270-5745. To apply for the grant, visit: <https://mauinuistrong.info/maui-county-small-business-grant>

COVID-19 UPDATES

If you are eligible for the vaccine or booster, please do your part and get them as soon as you can. In addition, testing when you are feeling ill or may have been exposed can stop future outbreaks. Please use the QR codes to the right to view a list of vaccine/booster locations as well as testing locations for your convenience.

For additional information regarding travel, statistics, resources, and news specific to Maui, visit: mauinuistrong.info

MAUI NUI STRONG

VACCINE LOCATIONS



TESTING LOCATIONS



STATE OF HAWAII COVID-19 VACCINE HOTLINE

The State of Hawai'i Department of Health call center is available to answer your COVID-19 vaccine questions.

(808) 586-8332

KEY MEASURES



During the legislative session,

we encourage political participation. Below are some of the key measures introduced this session. Please feel free to submit testimony. You may scan the QR code on the right to view detailed information regarding how to submit written or oral testimony.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HB2513 RELATING TO THE RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING FUND

Requires a certain amount of funds in the rental housing revolving fund be used to provide loans or grants to mixed-income rental projects or units for persons and families with incomes between sixty-one and one hundred per cent of the median family income.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB1974 RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Establishes the small business assistance initiative within the state procurement office, to consist of a small business procurement coordinator and small business office. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2112.



EDUCATION

HB2401 RELATING TO QUALITY SCHOOLS

Establishes a shortage differential salary incentive program within the department of education to provide shortage differential pay for teachers working in special education, hard-to-staff locations, and Hawaiian immersion positions. Provides automatic step increases in teacher salaries for each year of satisfactory service completed by public school teachers. Increases the amount of time available to teachers for planning, preparation, and collaboration.



EDUCATION

HB1939 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resource of the office.



KUPUNA

HB1824 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Appropriates funds to the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for ombudsman program specialist positions.



MINIMUM WAGE

HB2510 RELATING TO INCOME

Part II: Makes the state earned income tax credit refundable and permanent. Provides for carryforward of nonrefundable credits previously claimed.

Part III: Increases and amends the refundable food/excise tax credit.

Part IV: Increases minimum wage rate to \$11.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2023, \$12.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2024, \$13.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2025, \$14.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2026, \$15.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2027, \$16.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2028, \$17.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2029, and \$18.00 per hour beginning 1/1/2030. Increases the tip credit over the same period. Beginning 7/1/2030 and each year thereafter, requires DLIR to annually adjust the minimum wage hourly rate and tip credit amount for the following January 1 based on the average of the increases to the statewide median hourly wage for all occupations over the previous three years compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Part V: Amends the household and dependent care tax credit to apply to expenses paid for the care of a qualifying individual, regardless of age. Part VI: Increases the cap on revenues that may be deposited into the tax administration special fund and authorizes that moneys in the fund shall also be used for outreach to educate low-wage earners about their withholding options and to provide support when completing their withholding forms. Appropriates funds from the tax administration special fund for the purpose of this part. Effective 12/25/2040.

Note: You may locate these bills online at capitol.hawaii.gov to find the complete language and the most up-to-date actions. Please be advised that the status of these measures will continue to evolve as the session progresses.



Rep. Woodson's YouTube Channel

For further information regarding specific measures, you may scan the QR code to the right and it will take you to Rep. Woodson's YouTube channel.

CIP UPDATES

The outside of Maui High School's brand new gym



The inside of Maui High School's gym with brand new weightlifting equipment

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS & CONSOLIDATES RENTAL CAR FACILITY RECENTLY COMPLETED

To finance the construction for roadway improvements and for a Consolidated Rental Car Facility at Kahului Airport

Amount Released: \$699,466.00

Total Project Cost: \$377,331,066.00

KAHULUI PUBLIC LIBRARY ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: AUGUST 2023

To finance planning to study and identify needs for the integration of the new Kahului Public Library into the Department of Accounting and General Service's Kahului Mixed-use Civic Center Complex

Amount Released: \$200,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$200,000.00

Aloha,

I am inviting you to fill out a survey to help better serve our community and to allow you to express any feedback you may have. Below you will find a QR code to scan using your smartphone's camera. This QR code will take you directly to the survey. I am genuinely looking forward to reviewing your responses!

In addition, you will find information regarding COVID-19 updates and resources, key measures introduced during this session, and capital improvement projects in this newsletter.

Mahalo nui loa,



JUSTIN H. WOODSON



Above: Representative Woodson along with members of the Joint Filipino Legislative Caucus



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